

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to FIG. 11 and Applicant's specification at page 14, line 30 to page 15, line 21, which sets forth:

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of a double locker belt retaining bracket 270A in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. Double locker belt retaining bracket 270A includes a body 1102, a **first extension 1108 attached to a first end 1102E1 of body 1102 and a second extension 1110 attached to a second end 1102E2 of body 1102 opposite first end 1102E1.** ... **A first end 1110E1 of extension 1110 is attached to body 1102.** Of importance, **a second end 1110E2 of extension 1110 is flared to have a greater length LE2 than a length LE1 of first end 1110E1.** (Emphasis added.)

Applicant respectfully submits that one of skill in the art would understand what is being claimed in Claim 27 when read in light of the specification. Accordingly, Claim 27, and dependent Claims 28-29, 40-41, satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. For similar reasons, Claim 30, and dependent Claims 31-34, 38-39, satisfy 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

3/4) Claims 27-31, 38-39 are novel over the Nguyen.

A) CLAIMS 27-29 ARE NOVEL OVER THE NGUYEN.

Regarding Claim 27, the Examiner states:

... Nguyen discloses a structure comprising a retaining bracket (12-figure 2, column 3, lines 33-34) as shown in figures 1-2 comprising: **a body (20, column 3, line 35) comprising: a first arm and second arm (see attachment paper of figure 2, 1000, 2000, which are lateral bars of the body 20); a support beam (see attachment paper of figure 2, 300); ... wherein said first arm, said second arm, and said support beam are integrally attached together.** (Office Action, pages 3-4, emphasis added.)

Thus, the Examiner asserts that the "first arm" 1000, the "second arm" 2000 and the "support beam" 300 are integrally attached together.

However, as shown in Nguyen FIG. 2, the "first arm" 1000 is integrally attached to a first end of the "support beam" 300 and the "second arm" 2000 is integrally attached to a second end of the "support beam" 300, i.e., the "support beam" 300 extends between the "first arm" 1000 and the "second arm" 2000.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to call out where the "first arm" 1000, the "second arm" 2000 and the "support beam" 300 are **all** integrally attached together at a first end of the "body" 20 **and** at a second end of the "body" 20.

For at least the above reasons, Nguyen does not teach or suggest:

- A structure comprising a retaining bracket, said retaining bracket comprising:

- a body comprising:

- a first arm;

- a second arm; and

- a support beam;

- a first extension attached to a first end of said body, said first extension comprising a mounting aperture; and

- a second extension, a first end of said second extension attached to a second end of said body, a second end of said second extension including a first protrusion and a second protrusion, **wherein said first arm, said second arm, and said support beam are integrally attached together at said first end and said second end of said body,**

as recited in Claim 27, emphasis added. Accordingly, Claim 27 is allowable over Nguyen. Claims 28-29, which depend from Claim 27, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 27.

B) CLAIMS 30-31, 38-39 ARE NOVEL OVER THE NGUYEN.

Regarding Claim 30, the Examiner states:

... Nguyen discloses a structure comprising a retaining bracket (12-figure 2, column 3, lines 33-34) as shown in figures 1-2 comprising: **a body (20, column 3, line 35) comprising: a first extension and a second extension (22, 24, column 3, line 36), ... said first extension comprising first and second mounting apertures (32A; 32B, column 3, lines 47-48); and said first end (24") of said second extension attached to a second end (24', see attachment paper of figure 2) of said body (see figure 2) of said second extension, said second end (24') including a first protrusion and a second protrusion (two ends of lip 34, column 3, lines 45-46); wherein said first and second extensions are perpendicular to said body ...** (Office Action, pages 4-5, emphasis added.)

Applicant notes that the "first and second mounting apertures" 32A, 32B are formed in the lip 32, which is **parallel** to the "body" 20. Further, the lip 34, which the Examiner asserts defines the "first protrusion" and the "second protrusion", is also **parallel** to the "body" 20.

Specifically, Nguyen teaches:

End column support portions 22, 24 include a generally planar rectangular section 28, 30, respectively, generally orthogonal to central portion 20, and an upper lip 32, 34, respectively, generally parallel to central portion 20. Lips 32, 34 include, respectively, threaded holes 32A, 32B, and 34A, 34B. (Col. 3, lines 43-48, emphasis added.)

For at least the above reasons, Nguyen does not teach or suggest:

A structure comprising a retaining bracket, said retaining bracket comprising:

a body;

a first extension attached to a first end of said body, said first extension comprising a mounting aperture; and

a second extension, a first end of said second extension attached to a second end of said body, a second end of said second extension including a first protrusion and a second protrusion, wherein said first extension and said second extension are perpendicular to said body;

a first lip defined by said first protrusion; and

a second lip defined by said second protrusion,

as recited in Claim 30, emphasis added. Accordingly, Claim 30 is allowable over Nguyen. Claims 31, 38-39, which depend from Claim 30, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 30.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable subject matter.

As set forth above, Claims 27 and 30 are allowable. Claims 40-41 and 32-34, which depend from Claims 27 and 30, respectively, are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claims 27 and 30.

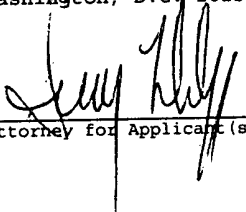
For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

CONCLUSION

Claims 27-34, 38-41 are pending in the application. For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

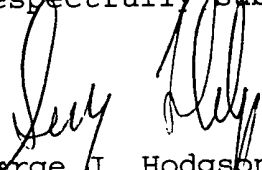
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 30, 2002.


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August 30, 2002
Date of Signature

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